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OUR TRADING ORGANISATION

By F. W. J. THOMAS

(Hon. Sec., London and Home Counties Area)

THE N.H.S. is again breaking all records so far as the sale of bulbs is concerned. There is no wonder that these sales increase enormously year by year, for I have never seen larger, firmer or cleaner samples. The national trading organisation is to be congratulated upon the general all-round standard of excellence which it so consistently maintains.

One thing, however, surprises me and that is that more societies do not buy their supplies through their own trading organisation. The N.H.S. is already doing a tremendous business amongst allotment societies, and many new ones come along each year, but if they were wise they would come in greater numbers. If they only knew what really good seeds, etc., those societies get who buy from the N.H.S., I am convinced that the rush of orders would be so large it would be difficult to cope with them.

What a struggle it must have been to turn a county trading organisation into a national one. Although some societies who had funds invested part of them in the N.H.S., others failed to do so, and consequently the business has had to be financed out of revenue instead of out of capital, and it has not been possible to pay a dividend since the change over.

I have heard a whisper, however, that the Committee will this year be announcing some pleasant news for its shareholders. I dare not say more except to appeal to our societies who are realising so little on their investments to put a few pounds in the N.H.S.—only a limited amount, however, can be accepted. The money required can be obtained from individuals if necessary, but the Committee want to keep the concern in the hands of allotment societies, as far as possible.

POULTRY KEEPING

A Note on the Fold-Unit System

By P. F. GREEN

THERE are many systems of poultry keeping obtaining in this and other countries, each claiming certain advantages which the others do not possess. It is not my purpose to discuss the relative merits of these but rather to direct attention to a way of keeping poultry which is both efficient, economical and highly productive—namely the fold-unit system.

The housing of the birds is done in an ark-shaped construction which is complete in itself. A portion of the sloping eaves is covered with wire-netting; the run beneath has no floor and at the ends of the unit there are covered-in portions which provide sleeping quarters, nest-boxes, etc.